Harassment of Indian Workers in Gulf Countries

1604. SHRI SATISHCHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaints from Indian Citizens working or worked in gulf countries regarding harassment by their owners and cheating by their India based agents; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) Sporadic complaints are received from Indian workers in Gulf countries. These complaints relate to delayed/non-payment of wages by the foreign employers, absence of adequate facilities for accommodation & food, payment of less wages than what was initially offered, non-payment of over-time allowance; change of jobs to the disadvantage of the workers; extortion of more than eight hours of work everyday; collection of service charges by the registered recruiting agents in excess of what is prescribed by the Government and sending of workers on false promises.

As and when such complaints are received, the Indian Missions are requested to take up the matter with the foreign employers and to arrange for the redressal of grievances of the workers. In many cases, such problems are solved. Simultaneously, the registered Recruiting Agents who had made recruitment of such workers for placement with the foreign employers are also directed to get in touch with their sponsor for settlement of grievances of the workers. In the event of failure of these agents to comply with the directions of the Protector General of Emigrants/Registering Authority, action is taken for suspension/cancellation of Registration certificates and forfeiture of the bank guarantee of such agents.

Worst Form of Child Labour

1605. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian delegation to the 87th session of the International Labour Conference had given the country's commitment to eliminate the "worst forms" the child labour;

(b) if so, what forms of child labour have been identified as worst form of such labour; and

(c) what steps have been and are being taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) The 87th Session of the International Labour Conference (ILC) unanimously adopted a new Convention and Recommendation on the Worst Forms of Child Labour. The Indian delegation played a constructive role in drafting these new instruments. For the purposes of the Convention the term "the worst forms of child labour" comprises:

(i) all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and force or compulsory labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict;

(ii) the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances;

(iii) the use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking or drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties;

(iv) work which by its nature of the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children.

Government has already initiated action for ratification of the Convention.

Non-payment of wages of employees by PSUs

1606. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI GURURDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the employees of several public sector undertakings are not being paid their wages and salaries for the last few months;

(b) if so, which are these public sector undertakings, the number of employees/workers who are not being paid and since when; and

(c) what steps are being taken to clear their wages/salaries?